MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 NOVEMBER 1982

Iran-Iraq War

Military Activities -- Iraq sank five oil tankers anchored at Khark Island on 20-21 November, a military communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio reported. The communique warned other ships against approaching Khark Island and Iranian territorial waters. Monitored Tehran media have not been observed to comment on the incident.

While a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio claimed that five Iraqi planes were downed on 20 November, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio insisted that all Iraqi planes had safely completed their combat missions.

An Iraqi Ba'th Party official denied that Iran had either seized or advanced toward Mandali, Baghdad radio reported. However, an Iranian military commander told IRNA on 21 November that Iraqi artillery fire had devastated part of the town after Iranian forces entered. He added that Mandali and the main road leading to the town are completely within firing range of Iranian artillery.

Volunteer Fighters -- A group of Popular Army volunteers including fighters from Sudan, Egypt, Syria, Tunisia and Jordan left Baghdad for the battlefront on 19 November, INA reported. The Popular Army commander told the group that Iraq will continue to receive Arab volunteers as long as the war continues, INA added. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn told the London-based AL-MAJALLAH magazine on 20 November that it is an Arab duty to support those who fight to defend the Arab nation, Baghdad radio reported. The president asserted that the war is almost over.

Syria

Israel's superiority over Syria in weaponry should not and will not be allowed to continue, President Hafiz al-Asad declared in a speech to the Syrian Trade Union Federation Congress broadcast live by Damascus radio. The destruction of the Syrian SAM batteries in the Al-Biqa' Valley last June was not a surprise to Syria since the Israelis "knew everything about the missiles which we had," Al-Asad asserted. However, the Israeli supremacy only applies to some technological fields, he said, and on the one occasion when Syria deployed a formation of T-72 tanks against Israeli tanks, the IDF lost 30 tanks and retreated 10 km. It is a "big lie" to speak of effective, invincible arms in the hands of the Israelis and ineffective Soviet arms in the hands of the Syrians, Al-Asad contended. Syria agreed to cease fire on 11 June on condition that the Israelis would begin to withdraw from Lebanon, the president continued, but the Israelis did not implement the agreement which Al-Asad had reached with U.S. envoy Philip Habib. Regarding the subsequent PLO-Syrian withdrawal from Beirut, Al-Asad explained that Syria was not a party to any of the contacts or negotiations that led to the evacuation of the Lebanese capital. He reaffirmed that as soon as the IDF withdraws from Lebanon, there will be "no problem" about withdrawing Syrian forces at the request of the Lebanese Government. Turning to the wider issue of Middle East peace negotiations, Al-Asad criticized attempts to drag the Arabs into granting concessions under the pretext of peace, asserting that this will make them concede their rights even before the start of negotiations so that when the talks take place there will be more concessions and "complete surrender." The Arabs are asked to recognize Israel while the latter is not asked to give anything except its agreement to negotiate, he complained.

Lebanon

Israeli Withdrawal Conditions -- Israel's proposals are not confined to a peace treaty but contain "embarrassing" demands including the right to supervise Lebanese territorial waters and airspace and to have access to a position on Al-Baruk mountain, which overlooks the Al-Biqa' Valley from the west, Voice of Lebanon radio reported on 19 November. However, after attending the 20 November meeting between President Amin al-Jumayyil and U.S. special envoy Habib, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said in remarks broadcast by the radio that Israel has not yet officially forwarded its conditions to the Lebanese Government. Informed Lebanese sources cited by Beirut radio meanwhile stated that Lebanon refused to negotiate under "the so-called conditions from this or that party."

Independence Day Address -- President al-Jumayyil told the nation in an Independence Day address broadcast by Beirut radio that the Lebanese will regain their independence and land by all means available to them. Promising that the army will expand and be from all and for all Lebanese, Al-Jumayyil said military service will be introduced within a few months.

Security Situation -- Gunmen from a local organization stormed and occupied the government house in Ba'labakk on 21 November, Beirut radio reported. The Voice of Lebanon said armed Iranians were responsible for the incident; the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon attributed it to Syrians, Palestinians, Iranians, communists and leftists. The men subsequently evacuated the building, according to Beirut radio.

Earlier, five people were killed in another Druze-Christian clash in the 'Alayh area, the Voice of Lebanon reported. Meanwhile, in a statement carried by ITIM, the IDF spokesman announced that one IDF soldier was killed and two others were wounded in the previously reported 19 November attack on an Israeli patrol in Sidon.

In another development, AFP cited a Lebanese news agency report that Lebanese security forces have arrested 12 people, most of them southerners, suspected of participating in the September massacres of Palestinians in Beirut.

Israel

Massacre Inquiry -- Testifying before the commission of inquiry into the Beirut massacre, Prime Minister Menahem Begin's military secretary denied that the Foreign Ministry deputy director general had telephoned him on 17 September to convey U.S. reports about irregularities in the military operation in West Beirut, as stated in the deputy director general's testimony to the commission, Jerusalem radio reported. According to the radio, another Foreign Ministry official told the commission that he first learned of the massacre on 18 September when U.S. Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs Morris Draper told him over the telephone that the Israelis must stop the "obscene" massacres.

Work Permit Conditions -- Following controversy over the Israeli regulation requiring foreigners working in the West Bank to sign a pledge that they will not aid or support the PLO, a Defense Ministry spokesman announced in a statement carried by ITIM that the civilian administration for Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip has decided to adjust work permit regulations to "what is acceptable in certain Western countries." While applicants for the new permit will not be required to sign any pledge, permits will be granted on condition that recipients refrain from acts harming security and observe all legislation forbidding aid or support to the PLO.

Tel Aviv Bomb -- Police arrested 21 Arab suspects in connection with a 21 November bomb explosion at a Tel Aviv train station in which one person was injured, Jerusalem radio noted.

Egypt

Mubarak Interview -- In an interview with Kuwait's AS-SIYASAH cited by MENA, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak asserted that tension in Arab-Egyptian relations "has ended," even though some people occasionally try to recreate the tense atmosphere that previously prevailed. Mubarak affirmed that Egypt intends to honor its peace agreement with Israel. He pointed out that the Reagan initiative contains positive elements and urged the Arabs not to reject it, but to exploit any available opportunity to solve the problems in the Middle East. He said the negative aspects can be discussed at the negotiating table with Jordanian and Palestinian participation. Since Egypt has stopped radio propaganda campaigns against the Arab world, it is "out of the question" for the PLO to open a radio station in Egypt, Mubarak declared. Mubarak said he supports establishing diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and is convinced such a relationship will develop. Asked about his government's stand on Egyptian opposition activities, the president indicated that a vigilant opposition poses no political dangers. Mubarak added that he is against taking any official measures against the opposition, because the government has nothing to hide.

Ghali Interview -- Foreign Minister Butrus Ghali stressed in an interview with THE JERUSALEM POST published on 19 November that Egypt remains firmly committed to peace with Israel. Despite the crisis of confidence created by the invasion of Lebanon, Egypt is doing its best to overcome the difficulties and is convinced that negotiations and "a new political atmosphere" that might encourage the Palestinians and other Arab countries to enter the peace process are necessary for success to be achieved, Ghali stated. He opined that Jordan and some form of Palestinian representation should be included in any future autonomy talks. Israeli, Arab and Palestinian moderates should be given more confidence and should be told that the only solution is to "sit around the negotiating table and talk," Ghali asserted. He added that Egypt has the patience to wait for the "moderate forces" in Israel to gain power, because it believes the moderates will prevail.

PLO Delegation Visits -- A PLO delegation led by PLO Executive Committee member Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali in Cairo on 21 November to discuss the various efforts being made to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, Cairo radio reported. Ad-Dajani stated that one of the specific reasons for the meeting was to coordinate Egyptian-Palestinian relations, the radio added. He said important ideas were crystallized during the meeting that will help to achieve a just peace.

PLO

Relations With Syria -- PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh stressed that Syria and the PLO have common bonds that are "much stronger than any hypothetical differences," KUNA reported. The official indicated that the Palestine Central Council meeting scheduled to be held on 19 November in Damascus was postponed for several days because of the Palestinian leadership's new engagements.

Radio Transmitter -- Baghdad Voice of PLO was heard on 1035 khz on 19 November, a frequency which had been relaying Baghdad Voice of the Masses immediately before the PLO radio program began. During the program, the radio announced that it was being relayed by Iraq's "most powerful transmitter." Following the Voice of PLO program, 1035 khz was heard relaying the Baghdad Voice of Palestine program.

Inter-Arab

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd arrived in Algiers for talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid on ways to promote bilateral relations and preserve Arab solidarity, SPA reported. In an arrival statement, King Fahd emphasized the importance of promoting cooperation, understanding and joint Arab action, SPA added. Riyadh radio speculated that during the consultations Saudi Arabia will try to mediate between Algeria and Morocco on the Western Saharan conflict and will urge Algeria to mediate in the Iran-Iraq War.

Oil Affairs

Saudi Arabia's petroleum and mineral affairs minister and Kuwait's oil minister told SPA that their countries support OPEC's current price level and want it to be maintained. However, the Saudi minister indicated in a 17 November interview with Kuwait's AL-WATAN that while Saudi Arabia prefers the current price level, they are open to all suggestions and solutions in order to preserve OPEC unity. The paper added that many Gulf countries believe they are carrying an unfair burden because some OPEC countries are not following the pricing and production guidelines; Gulf countries have asked other OPEC countries to follow the guidelines or face punitive measures.

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KARMAL CONGRATULATES ANDROPOV ON ELECTION

LD201826 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, has sent the following congratulatory telegram to Moscow, addressed to Y.V. Andropov on his appointment as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee:

To Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of CPSU Central Committee: Dear Yuriy Vladimirovich, I convey my warm and most sincere fraternal congratulations on the occasion of your election to the supreme position of general secretary of the proud Leninist Communist Party Central Committee. In Afghanistan, you are familiar as an outstanding personality of the international communist movement, a true Leninist, an unflinching internationalist and a close and earnest friend of our country. In taking this opportunity, I express full confidence that fraternal relations between our parties, close and all-round cooperation between the DRA and the Soviet Union, will further develop and strengthen in the interest and prosperity of the people of our countries, for the interest of peace and security in the region and in the world.

[Signed] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee

KARMAL BRIEFS POLITBURO ON TALKS IN MOSCOW

LD202220 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Text] A session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was held on 18 November. The meeting was chaired by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council. During the session, Babrak Karmal informed the Politburo about the visit of a high-ranking party and state delegation to Moscow to attend the funeral of the late L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Babrak Karmal said the Afghan party and state delegation, on behalf of the people, the PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolutionary Council and the DRA Government, expressed their profound sympathy and condolences to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers and also to the family of the late L.I. Brezhnev on the great loss of that revolutionary and oustanding fighter on the path of peace, the great contemporary statesman and true friend of the Afghan people. Babrak Karmal pointed out that when the people of the Soviet Union and all progressive mankind said farewell to L.I. Brezhnev and buried him, the international respect and stand of the Soviet Union and the solidarity between the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet people, the fraternal parties and the workers of the socialist countries and progressive states were clearly demonstrated. Babrak Karmal said that during the visit he saw the workers of the Soviet Union, strongly united around the CPSU and its Central Committee, express their resolute and full desire to spend all their energy and knowledge for the further consolidation and strengthening of the USSR's economic and defense power, enhancing the prosperity of the people and strengthening peace and security on our planet.

Babrak Karmal also gave information on the comradely and friendly meeting with Y.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Babrak Karmal said that during the meeting, which was held in a warm and comradely atmosphere, he exchanged views on the problems of the present international situation and on Afghan-Soviet relations. In this meeting, profound satisfaction was expressed for the present friendly and traditional relations between the PDPA and the CPSU, and it was stated that we [as heard] would not spare any efforts for further growth and strengthening of these relations. The Politburo members heard Babrak Karmal's report with profound attention. They also welcomed, confirmed and expressed satisfaction with the talks between Babrak Karmal and Y.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

KHAN RETURNS FROM MOSCOW, COMMENTS ON TALKS

BK200958 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Text] The Soviet Union has expressed its willingness to help Bangladesh in its effort for the economic development and promotion of bilateral ties for mutual benefit of the two countries. This was stated by Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator [DCMLA] and Minister for Communication Rear Adm M.A. Khan on his return home yesterday after attending the funeral of late Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev in Moscow.

The DCMLA told newsmen that his talks with the Soviet leaders were fruitful and hoped that his visit would further strengthen relations between the two countries.

While in Moscow, DCMLA met the new Communist Party Secretary General Yuriy Andropov and Railway Minister I.G. Pavlovskiy and other Soviet leaders. He also had fruitful discussions with the Soviet railway minister on possible cooperation and collaboration for development of our railway system.

FORMER MINISTER CONVICTED ON CORRUPTION CHARGE

BK181217 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Nov 82 p 1

[Excerpt] The five-member special martial law tribunal No. 2 in a unanimous judgment on Wednesday found former State Minister for Manpower Development and Social Welfare Atauddin Khan guilty of the charges of corruption and abuse of official position under regulation 11 of MLR [martial law regulation] of 1982 and convicted and sentenced him to suffer rigorous imprisonment for seven years, reports BSS.

The tribunal also ordered him to pay a fine of taka 500,000 in default to suffer rigorous imprisonment for another three years.

BRIEFS

NEW HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR -- The new Ambassador of Hungary in Bangladesh Perene Turi presented his credentials to President Justice Ahsanuddin Chowdhury at the Banga Bhavan in Dhaka on Monday. [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 Nov 82 BK]

GRENADE THROWN AT SOVIET EMBASSY BUILDING

BK200904 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Text] There was a grenade explosion in the residential quarters of the Soviet Embassy in New Delhi on Thursday night. According to the Delhi police, nobody was injured and there was only minor damage to a door and glass panes of a house.

A case under the explosives act has been registered. A senior police officer told our correspondent that investigation is in process.

AKALI DEMONSTRATORS COURT ARREST IN DELHI

BK201557 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Text] Over 100 Akali demonstrators courted arrest near Patel Chowk in New Delhi this evening in support of their demand on the 2d day of their morcha [agitation]. The demonstrators were led by Hardeep Inder Singh Badal, member of the legislative assembly.

'Agitation' Continues

BK211602 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Text] Nearly 100 Akali demonstrators courted arrest in New Delhi today in support of their demands on the 3d day of their agitation. The demonstrators were led by Shiromani Gurdwara Prabhandhak [Management] Committee Chief G.S. Tohra.

POLICE ARREST SIKH MP, 125 SUPPORTERS 21 NOV

BK211306 Hong Kong AFP in English 1256 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 21 (AFP) -- Police today arrested a Sikh member of the Indian parliament and about 125 of his supporters here, for violating a prohibitory order to ensure security of the Ninth Asian Games now in progress here, police said.

G.S. Tohra, who is also chief of the all-important Sikh Temple Committee in the Sikh holy city Amritsar in Punjab state, was arrested near the parliament house after coming out of a temple. Mr Tohra had come to the Indian capital to lead Sikh demonstrators on a protest march which the Sikh party, the Akali Dal, is carrying out every day to draw international support to their demand for Punjab autonomy.

Police said Mr Tohra and the others arrested today could be jailed for 15 days.

Today was the third day of Sikh demonstrations here. Including today's arrest, a total of 350 Sikhs have been arrested here since the Asian games began last Friday.

PRESIDENT ZIAUL HAQ SPEAKS TO NEWMEN IN LAHORE

U.S. Trip, Area Developments

BK201342 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said he is going to the United States with the intention of creating more goodwill and understanding between the two countries. Talking to newsmen on his arrival in Lahore today, the president said he was going to Washington on the invitation of President Ronald Reagan. He said there was no fixed agenda for the talks, nor were there any definite proposals. They would, however, listen to each other's point of view on international issues, particularly Afghanistan and the Middle East. He said Pakistan has to look on this region from a very close quarter and obviously he will apprise President Reagan of his recent talks with Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi. The president added it is our sincere effort to have a congenial atmosphere in the region and have very friendly and good relations between Pakistan and India as behooves two neighbors.

Replying to a question about the situation in the Middle East, President Ziaul Haq said that Pakistan considered the Middle East very close to it. It had its own point of view on the Middle East issue and there would be no change in Pakistan's stand. He added that solution of the Middle East problem lay with the United States and Israel as the solution of the Afghanistan issue lay with the Soviet Union. The president referred to President Reagan's initiative on the Middle East and said certain points in this plan were positive.

About Afghanistan, President Ziaul Haq said Pakistan wanted a political solution of the issue keeping in view the parleys held at the Geneva conference under the UN auspices. He said the UN secretary general's representative, Cordovez, would visit Pakistan next month. He would also go to Afghanistan and Iran for the purpose.

About the Iran-Iraq conflict, the president said the ummah peace committee had been playing its due role in this regard and we should all pray for an early end of this conflict.

Replying to another question about his recent talks in Moscow with the Soviet leaders, the president hoped that there would be freshness in the attitude of the new Soviet leadership.

Rules Out Assemblies' Elections

BK210443 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Excerpts] President Mohammed Ziaul Haq has said his visit to the United States is intended to further promote good will and understanding between the two countries. Talking to newsmen in Lahore today, he said that there is no fixed agenda for his talks with the American President. We will listen to each other's point of view on international issues, particularly Afghanistan and the Middle East.

Referring to domestic affairs, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said the structure for the political system of the country will be completed before the 14th of August next year. He said work on completion of the electoral rolls has been thoroughly begun. As far as the holding of provincial and national assemblies' elections is concerned, the atmosphere is not suitable for them. He said he desires political activities in which all sections of the society jointly take part. Concrete efforts should be made for the unity of the country and the stability of Pakistan, he added.

In reply to a question on the role of the armed forces, he said this role has always been determined in every country.

Answering another question relating to the report of the Islamic Ideology Council, the president said he has not sent the report to the council.

ZIA HOPEFUL FOR NEW SOVIET VIEWS ON AFGHANISTAN

BK211658 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that he is hopeful that the new Soviet leadership will adopt a new outlook on the problem of Afghanistan. Talking to newsmen on his arrival in Karachi from Rawalpindi this evening, he said his recent meeting with CPSU General Secretary Andropov has affirmed this impression.

In reply to a question, the president said the number of Afghan refugees registered by the officials is 2.8 million, but the actual number could be more than this. In reply to another question, he said although the assistance provided by the international community for the Afghan refugees is not in keeping with our needs, we are still thankful to them as they are providing assistance for humane reasons. When asked about the increase or decrease in the number of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, he said this is related to the Soviet military activities in Afghanistan. The president expressed the hope that the resolution on Afghanistan which is to be presented to the UN General Assembly this time will be more effective and concrete compared with the resolutions introduced in the past.

The president said he would exchange views on matters of mutual interest with Romanian President Ceausescu during his brief stopover in Karachi. The president said Pakistan has very good relations with Romania.

He said the objective of every person, whether he is a politician or not, should be to create and strengthen stability in the country. He said he is not opposed to anybody, nor has he ever criticized the politicians. He said he wants to prevent the political atmosphere of the country from being polluted.

In reply to a question, he said the Federal Advisory Council is not being expanded at present. He also said he would visit Sind later next month or in January.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR TEHRAN 20 NOV

BK201302 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left Islamabad this morning for Tehran on a visit to Iran. He told newsmen at the airport that he will exchange views with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the Afghanistan issue and bilateral matters. He said he will hold talks with the Iranian foreign minister on Pakistan's stand on the Afghanistan issue and on the UN debate on the subject scheduled to begin on 24 November. The Pakistani foreign minister is to take part in the debate.

When asked whether there is any possibility of Iran's direct participation in the negotiations on Afghanistan, the foreign minister said: We respect Iran's stand on the Afghan issue. We have endeavored to maintain close contact with the Iranian Government in this regard and our efforts toward a solution of the Afghanistan issue are coordinated.

BHUTTO'S WIDOW GIVEN 'MASSIVE SENDOFF'

BK200500 Hong Kong AFP in English 0438 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Excerpts] Karachi, Nov. 20 (AFP) -- Begum Nusrat Bhutto, ailing widow of executed former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was given a massive sendoff by thousands of her supporters last night as she left here for Paris en route to Munich and Essen for medical treatment of suspected lung cancer.

Mrs. Bhutto, who leads the banned Pakistan People's Party of her late husband, fainted and fell off a wheelchair when some of the estimated 15,000 people rushed here while she waited to board her plane.

Customs officials rushed her through customs, and the Air France flight left at 2030 GMT.

Before leaving her seaside villa for the airport, Mrs. Bhutto issued a press statement bidding farewell to the people of Pakistan for a "temporary period."

She said she was leaving the country with a heavy heart and "under medical duress," and also repeated her call for the restoration of democracy.

"I hope to return soon to continue to contribute to this noble endeavour," she said, charging that political detainees "have been deprived of their liberty without any charge."

CRISIS IN DEFUNCT PARTY RANKS CONTINUES

GF201134 Karachi DAWN in English 17 Nov 82 p 12

[Text] Lahore, Nov 16: The crisis in the ranks of the defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqlal continues to brew and indications are that some more active members and office-bearers of the party may either attract disciplinary action or decide to quit on their own.

Mr Eitezaz Ahsan, a prominent member of the National Committee of the Party, who issued a strong statement questioning and criticising the expulsion of the information secretary, Mr Nafees Siddiqui, from the primary membership of the organisation without giving him proper opportunity to defend himself, has been summoned to Peshawar by the acting chief of the party, Mr Munir Shah, and secretary general, Mr Mushir Pesh Imam, and would be proceeding to the NWFP [North West Frontier Province] capital tomorrow.

Indications are that he would be asked to explain his position before a charge-sheet was issued to him. In the meantime the Tehrik leader from Baluchistan, Mr Khudai Noor, discussed the party affairs with Mr Ahsan this evening.

It may be added that following the action taken against Mr Siddiqui, notice has also been issued to the acting secretary-general of the NWFP Tehrik, Mr Yunus Khan, while a central councillor from Quetta, Agha Farooq Shah, has already tendered his resignation from the party to register his protest.

Another significant development is that quite a few office-bearers are openly debating the issue in the press columns without bothering to wait for the decision of the central working committee on the subject.

MINISTRY OFFICIAL RETURNS FROM MIDEAST TOUR

GF191608 Tehran IRNA in English 1507 GMT 19 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA -- Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam said Thursday that his trip to a number of Arab countries was useful and fruitful.

Upon his arrival here after a visit to Syria, Algeria, Libya, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, and the U.A.E., Sheykh ol-Eslam said that the victories of the Islamic forces had put the Islamic Republic in a very strong position. He added that successive victories had introduced us as a force which held the key to the (?Iraqi imposed) war.

Sheykh ol-Eslam said that during his meetings with Arab officials of the said countries, he explains the policy of the Islamic Republic in the region, which was aimed against Saddam and Zionism. He added that it was unfortunate that the U.S. had been successful in moving the treacherous Camp David accords ahead stage by stage. He said that in his meetings with the Arab authorities that issue too had been discussed and good results had been achieved.

Concerning joing anti-U.S. and anti-Zionist strategy with the said countries in the international organisations, the deputy foreign minister said that Libya, Syria, Algeria, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) and the U.A.E. supported the contents of President Khamene'i's call for the formation of a fund with the help of the non-aligned nations in order to provide for the needs of the movement.

During his trip, Sheykh ol-Eslam met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Libyan Prime Minister [as received] 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, PDRY Foreign Ministry officials and the crown prince of the U.A.E., Shaykh Khalifa ibn Zayid ibn Sultan.

Comments on War Aims

LD200058 Tehran IRNA in English 2019 GMT 19 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA -- The Islamic Republic of Iran, as the most powerful country of the region, is an advocate of peace, said Foreign Ministry political undersecretary, Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, Wednesday in United Arab Emirates.

The Foreign Ministry undersecretary who was in UAE, in a press conference on Wednesday said that the Islamic Republic, at the zenith of power and stability, would warmly welcome the friendship of any country which tries to counter the influence of superpowers in the region. It would also forgive (?those countries') past errors of political misjudgements, said Sheykh ol-Eslam, while warning those countries which were used to materialise U.S. conspiracies to be rational. He also said that the Islamic Republic adamantly believed that the security of the region should be provided by the regional countries, further saying that those who wanted to allow their countries to be used as launching pads for U.S. military should not talk about procuring peace and stability in the region.

The Iranian official once again reiterated that the Islamic Republic did not cover even one inch of another country's territory whether Iraq or any other country.

Discoursing on the assistances of several reactionary governments to Saddam in the Iraqi-imposed war, Sheykh ol-Eslam said that the U.S. strategy to change this war into a war between Iran and Arabs was fortunately foiled through the awareness of some Arab countries. He then said that the Islamic defenders would, God willing, soon expel the aggressor enemy and would recover their territories still under enemy occupation.

Repeating once again Iran's terms of ending the Iraqi-imposed war, the Foreign Ministry undersecretary said that Iran advocated the punishment of Saddam because it believed that otherwise the origins of aggression and blackmail would not be rooted out in the region and that "we do not want that tomorrow Saddam or another person launch on an aggression and then through collecting assistances from the U.S. and other reactionaries and through mediation of some others vindicate itself," he added.

Referring to the shaky situation of Saddam's regime, he said that the regional countries should know that there was no hope for Saddam's survival and their assistances would only prolong the war. If they truly desire to end the war, he said, they should stop their unsparing aids to Saddam.

Sheykh ol-Eslam then commented on Saddam's claims six months ago, that Iraqi forces had withdrawn from Iranian territory, adding that although some parts of the occupied Iranian lands have been liberated since then by the Islamic defenders, still some quarters of the Iranian territory including Naftshahr, in Bakhtaran Province, were still under Iraqi occupation.

This indicated the falsehood of Saddam's statements in all aspects, whether the withdrawal of Iraqi forces or his co-called peace-loving statements.

In conclusion, he said that the Iranian nation would soon liberate the remaining territories and would teach a lesson to the aggressors so that no one in the future would dare violate or attack upon another country.

The Foreign Ministry undersecretary left Tehran heading a delegation to five Arab countries two-weeks ago. He travelled to Syria, Algeria, Libya, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and then to the United Arab Emirates. The trips were aimed at explaining Iran's stands regarding the regional issues. He returned to Tehran Thursday.

PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES 20 NOV

LD201111 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Pakistani Foreign Affairs Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khai arrived in Tehran today at the head of a delegation. He was welcomed by Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Velayati, Pakistan's ambassador to Iran and other officials of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In an interview with our colleague, the Pakistani foreign affairs minister expressed delight at his trip to Iran: The Islamic revolution in Iran is one of the most remarkable revolutions in the world today and has become the center of attention throughout the world. We would like to expand relations between Iran and Pakistan and would like to hold talks with Iranian authorities on regional issues, international affairs and bilateral relations.

On his way to Tehran, the Pakistani foreign affairs minister landed at Zahedan Airport where he was welcomed by the governor general of Sistan va Baluchestan and other provincial officials.

Discusses Arms Purchases

GF201840 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov 20, IRNA -- Pakistani foreign affairs minister, General Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan, heading a political mission arrived in Tehran early this afternoon for a two-day official visit and talks with authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In a press release distributed at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport, the Pakistani foreign affairs minister said that he was glad to visit Iran on the invitation of his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati and hoped that his talks with Iranian officials would prove beneficial.

When asked about miltiary ties between Pakistan and the United States, General Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan told IRNA's reporter that his country purchased arms and miltiary supplies from the U.S. and other countries and that should not be considered as having strong military relations between Pakistan and the U.S. General Yaqub Ali Khan who also served as Pakistani ambassador to Washington for six years till end of 1979, further added that arm purchases were made for the security of the country and they would not be used for other purposes.

The Pakistani foreign affairs minister will leave for New York where he will take part in talks concerning the Afghanistan issue in the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Meets With Velayati

LD202036 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Nov 82

Text] The Central News Unit reports that Pakistani Minister of Foreign Affairs Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, who has come to Tehran leading a high-ranking political delegation, this afternoon met with Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

At the meeting, the Pakistani minister of foreign affairs elaborated on the foreign policy of his country: Pakistan's policy is based on the balance of power between the superpowers, friendship with neighboring countries and increasing efforts toward nonalignment. He then referred to the problems in the Persian Gulf, saying: We believe maintaining the security of the Persian Gulf should be left to the littoral countries and no other power has the right to interfere. Our position has remained unchanged in this respect.

Referring to the friendly and sincere relations between Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Pakistani minister of foreign affairs said: Fortunately, relations between the two countries are good and have continued.

Velayati replied: The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches considerable importance to establishing relations with Muslim neighboring countries. Considering the many common grounds like religion, culture, language, history and traditions that bring the two countries of Iran and Pakistan together, we would like to expand and strengthen our relations with Pakistan. Our minister of foreign affairs then elaborated on Iran's foreign policy: Our policy is based on good neighborly relations with all neighboring countries, good relations with Muslim neighboring countries, noninterference in their internal affairs and confrontation of any aggression against our country and revolution. Velayati added: The decisive reply we gave to the aggression of the Iraqi Ba'thist Zionist regime and our good relations with the Muslim neighboring countries are two examples of this policy.

Afghanistan Discussed

LD211800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that in the second round of negotiations between Pakistani Minister of Foreign Affairs Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and our country's Minister of Foreign Affairs Velayati, which took place this afternoon, relations between the two countries and problems of the region including Afghanistan were discussed.

In this round of negotiations, our country's minister of foreign affairs referred to increasing provocations by the criminal United States in the region, the pretext of Afghanistan's occupation by the USSR, and expressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the right-seeking struggle of the Muslim people of Afghanistan. He said to resolve the issue of Afghanistan, a permanent solution should be found and provisional solutions that do not encompass the interests of the people of Afghanistan should be dismissed. Also at this meeting, cultural exchanges between the two countries were discussed.

Confers With Khamene'i

LD211200 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Text] Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, visiting Pakistani minister of foreign affairs, met and conferred this morning with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the Central News Unit reports.

The meeting also was attended by Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Pakistani Ambassador Totehran and the Islamic Republic's ambassador to Pakistan. Regional topics and expansion of bilateral relations were discussed at the meeting.

Commenting on the need for increased solidarity and unity among Islamic nations, Khamene'i said: Common issues of the world of Islam must be dealt with by the governments of the Islamic world. In his remarks, our country's president referred to the importance of good relations between our two countries: After the victory of the Islamic revolution and in accordance with Islamic principles, we respected our neighbors' integrity. However, some of our neighbors did not reciprocate. On the basis of those same principles, we tried to maintain a brotherly and friendly approach with all brother countries in all international arenas. Khamene'i added: We have not based our foreign policy on anything but our national interests.

Referring to the inauspicious U.S. designs in the region, the president said: Great treachery has taken place in the Middle East. Through assistance rendered by certain reactionary regional governments, the United States has been able to achieve most of its aims in that region. Concerning this development, we have assumed a policy of guidance and revelation. We could not afford to remain silent on the issue of Lebanon, just as we could not remain silent on the issue of the Palestinians. These are issues of concern to us, to the entire world of Islam and to the Islamic countries.

CABINET MEETS 21 NOVEMBER; VELAYATI COMMENTS

LD211156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the Cabinet met this morning in the presence of President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

Defense Minister Colonel Salimi and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Minister Rafiqdust first submitted several reports on developments along the fronts of the battle between truth and falsehood. Foreign Minister Velayati then submitted a detailed report on the situation in Lebanon and the savage [word indistinct] of the regime occupying Jerusalem. He spoke about the development of the Muslim resistance forces in Lebanon and the effects of this resistance, which will eventually become known.

During today's session, the Cabinet studied the draft labor bill proposed by the labor minister. The Cabinet discussed the spirit of the bill, made general suggestions and deferred its decision on the bill to a future session.

IRNA reports that Foreign Minister Velayati granted an interview to newsmen after today's Cabinet session in which he spoke of the Pakistani Foreign Minister's visit to Tehran. Velayati referred to the expansion of relations between Iran and Pakistan: Our relations with Pakistan are based on good neighborliness and are consistent with our general policy on Islamic countries. Our trade with Pakistan has been increasing over the past 10 months, as have our cultural relations. The Pakistani Government has granted us some scholarships to enable Iranian students to study in Pakistan's universities.

Asked about the formation of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, he replied: The Islamic Republic of Iran gives moral and material support to the establishment of justice-loving, popular and Islamic governments in other countries. This council has been set up by various militant strata of the Muslim Iraqi nation.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF ISSUES COMMUNIQUES

Communique No 1,127

LD191742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Nov 82

[Communique No 1,127 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Our dear compatriots hereby are imformed of the outcomes of battles and efforts by the selfless combatants of Islam for the elimination of the enemy on the battlefields of the war between right and wrong.

At 2010 on 17 November, the defeated forces of Saddam launched an offensive in the Muslim ibn 'Aqil operational zone, which was immediately countered bravely by the great and triumphant forces of Islam. Finally after 1 hour of engagement, the Iraqi mercenaries retreated, leaving behind 150 dead or injured.

During clashes at Shur-e Shirin and Nowsud, the self-sacrificing army personnel and valiant gendarmerie mounted heavy artillery fire on Iraqi concentrations and units, halting their activities and silencing their fire. During these operations, three enemy mortars were completely destroyed and the enemy suffered a number of casualties.

During exchanges of fire at the Marivan front, the combatants of Islam maintained their fire superiority, silenced Iraqi fire and inflicted losses and damages on them.

At other western fronts yesterday, sporadic exchanges of artillery and other heavy weaponry fire continued. As a result of the Islamic combatants' fire, a few enemy bunkers, two ammunition dumps, one engineering [word indistinct] and a number of Iraqi [word indistinct] were set on fire and destroyed. Enemy casualties during this operation exceeded 20.

In the Moharram operational zone and other southern fronts yesterday, exchanges of fire took place. At one of the Moharram fronts, the heavy fire of the army's artillery unit halted Iraqi forces' movements and traffic; the enemy suffered considerable losses and casualties. The triumphant combatants of Islam stationed at those fronts continue to consolidate their defensive positions.

Valiants of the navy stationed at the Abadan front retaliated against the Saddam forces' fire, silencing their fire, destroying three observation posts, several bunkers and their occupants as well as killing or injuring more than 20 Iraqi personnel.

The criminal Saddam mercenaries yesterday brought the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr under their heavy artillery shellings, martyring or injuring a number of our dear compatriots and damaging one hospital and five houses.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,128

LD201726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Communique No 1,128 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Five enemy planes were hit and downed today, due to the fire of antiaircraft defense units and the heroic pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Two of these planes were downed at 1102, and the other three were downed at 1115, 1118 and 1119 in the Moharram operatonal region. Thus, the number of enemy planes downed in this region totals 24.

In the Muslim ibn 'Aqil operational region, our fighting ground force units inflicted effective blows on the aggressors' positions and are now continuing to crush enemy personnel and to destroy enemy equipment. In this region, our artillery units destroyed five tanks, a vehicle carrying ammunition, a loader and several vehicles carrying Iraqi personnel. The number of casualties suffered by the enemy is at least 21 killed and wounded.

In the Paveh region yesterday, exchange of fire continued with our forces maintaining the upper hand. In the Marivan region, due to heavy weapons fire of the forces of Islam on enemy positions situated in Iraq's Panjwin and Tutman districts, a number of trenches were destroyed, several mortars were put out of action and a number of Saddamist forces were killed.

In the operational regions of Abadan and Khorramshahr yesterday, the forces of Islam opened fire on enemy occupied positions and destroyed 11 trenches and foxholes and 1 antiaircraft gun belonging to the Iraqi military forces. Also yesterday, due to enemy mortar fire, four houses and shops were destroyed in Abadan.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,129

LD211740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Communique No 1,129 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The conditions at the fronts of the imposed war are brought to the attention of the dear compatriots.

Exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons' fire took place yesterday between the victorious combatants of Islam and the doomed Saddamite mercenaries on most of the western and southern fronts.

At 1300 yesterday, the Iraqi mercenaries were planning to carry out operations in a region near Qasr-e Shirin. However, the combatants of Islam and gendarmerie combatants promptly neutralized their oeprations and pinned the Saddamite mercenaries down in their defensive positions.

During battles and exchanges of fire at the western fronts, the mighty combatants of Islam fired on enemy positions and units in the Qasr-e Shirin and Sumar sectors, destroying three tanks, one cannon, two 106-mm guns and one [word indistinct] and killed or wounded several enemy personnel.

During a strike operation recently in the western part of the country, brave tribal combatants penetrated the positions of the Zionist mercenaries of Iraq and engaged them in combat, destroying a helicopter and 3 lorries, and killed more than 30 enemy personnel.

Exchanges of fire took place yesterday on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts. The navy and gendarmerie combatants destroyed two enemy lorries, five slit trenches and foxholes and a bridge and killed several enemy personnel. Enemy movements on the Al-Faw-Basra axis also were disrupted.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

REPORTAGE ON RECENT MILITARY OPERATIONS

Enemy Aircraft Repulsed

LD200032 Tehran IRNA in English 1959 GMT 19 Nov 82

[Text] Abadan, Nov. 19, IRNA -- Two Iraqi aircraft violated the air space of Abadan today but were forced to flee by the anti-aircraft defence units of the Islamic combatants before carrying out any missions. Also four enemy airplanes flew over the border regions of (Ras al-Bisheh) and the mouth of Faw during the past 24 hours which were also repulsed.

The Islamic defenders zeroed in on Iraqi bunkers and armoured equipment beyond Arvand River with mortar and 106-mm gun fire last night killing at least 10 enemy troops. [Word indistinct] two calibres 50 and 75 machine guns were destroyed and the crew managing them were killed.

Meanwhile, Islamic combatants smashed one logistic brigade, four group bunkers and five dug-outs on the other side of Arvand River as well as killing some Iraqis.

By stopping the Iraqi vehicles movements along the logistic roads of Al-Faw-Basra, the enemy's movements along the Arvand River bank were halted by the fire of the Islamic forces.

Counteroffensive Halted

LD192356 Tehran IRNA in English 1956 GMT 19 Nov 82

[Text] Ilam, Nov. 19, IRNA -- An Iraqi counter-offensive was halted around Chamhendi, one of the regions in the extreme south of the Moharram theatre, this morning. The defeated enemy intended to aggress the positions of the Islamic combatants in this region at 6:45 AGM (local time). Its disarranged forces subjected the Islamic forces to heavy artillery and tank fire. Still the counter-offensive was suppressed after one and a half hours of heavy exchange of fire.

The Moharram operations started on Nov. 1st covering the border regions in west of Dezful from Dehloran (in Ilam Province) and just north of Fakhreh (in Khuzestan Province).

In another development, two Iraqi Mirage fighters appeared over the skies of Ilam this morning but were immediately forced to flee by the anti-aircraft units of the Islamic combatants.

Bridge Destroyed

GF211641 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Text] Ahvaz, Nov 21, IRNA -- The logistical activities of the Iraqi Army came to a halt as an enemy's logistical bridge, east of Al-Basra, was smashed by the accurate fire of the Islamic combatants Saturday night.

Meanwhile, more than 40 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded during the artillery fire exchanges in the southern fronts of Kushk, Shalamcheh, Ramadan theatre and on the Arvand River banks over the past 24 hours.

In these operations, the Iranian defenders destroyed 24 group bunkers and dug-outs, one command jeep, one calibre 75 machine gun, four RPG-7s and another machine gun as well as checking the Iraqi vehicles movements on the Al-Faw-Al-Basra route.

In Abadan, two civilians were wounded during Saturday night and Sunday as a result of the Iraqi barrages which demolished or set afire one school building, three houses and one shop.

In other developments over the past 24 hours, the Iranian air defence fire immediately repulsed the Iraqi war planes which violated Abadan's air space.

The aggressor Iraqi aircraft were forced to flee without carrying out any mission.

'Upper Hand' Gained

GF211734 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Text] Bakhtaran, Nov 21, IRNA -- The Islamic defenders maintained the upper hand and inflicted some blows upon the Iraqis during the battle operations in the western fronts over the past 24 hours.

Some enemy soldiers were killed or wounded as the Iranian forces smashed two 106-mm guns, one munitions loaded vehicle, one artillery position, one observation post and several bunkers of the enemy as well as setting ablaze one Iraqi logistical depot and another vehicle in the said battlefronts.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi physician seeking asylum entered Iran through one of the western regions on Sunday. Also six more Iraqi Muslims from As-Sulaymaniyah and Kirkuk defected to the Islamic Republic on Saturday.

Offensive Viewed

GF211737 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Text] Bakhtaran, Nov 21, IRNA -- Forty-two Iraqi soldiers were killed and 22 others wounded in Muslim ibn 'Aqil theatre of the western fronts over the past 24 hours as the Islamic liberation forces destroyed two enemy tanks, one munitions depot, three mortar launching positions and five trenches.

The anti-aircraft fire of the Iranian defenders immediately repulsed an Iraqi fighter plane which violated the air space of the said region on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the commander of the 81st Armoured Division of Bakhtaran told IRNA, today, that the Iraqi artillery tire have [as received] recently devastated a part of the town of Mandali, some 100 kms northeast of Baghdad, after the Iranian guerrillas penetrated into this Iraqi border town.

Noting that Mandali and the paved road leading to the town were completely within the range of the Iranian artillery fire, the commander added following the second stage of the massive Muslim ibn 'Aqil offensive, the enemy launched five counterattacks which have all been severely crushed by the Islamic troops.

The second thrust of the Operation Muslim ibn 'Aqil was launched successfully in the Sumar region of the western fronts at 21:45 hours local time Monday, Nov 15.

Also, an Iraqi war plane violated Ilam's air space at 12:15 hours today but the Iranians forced it to flee.

IRNA REPORTS 20 NOV FIRE AT MEHRABAD AIRPORT

GF211552 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov 21 IRNA -- There is no interruption in the schedule of international flights as a result of the fire at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday in building located between terminals 1 and 2 at the Mehrabad International Airport, an official at the airport said this morning.

The fire caused no casualty but inflicted heavy financial losses. The causes of the fire are not determined as yet. Normal activities at the airport were resumed after a short time when the fire was brought under control by the fire brigade.

The flight to Damascus took place according to schedule this morning.

Further Details

GF211616 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov 21, IRNA -- Head of the Civil Aviation Department, Mr Nurian, in an interview with IRNA today gave more details concerning a fire at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport yesterday afternoon which caused some damages. He said that fire broke out in office of one of the airline companies and immediately spread to other parts. However firemen controlled the fire and it was put out after two hours.

As for the reason behind the fire, the head of the Civil Aviation Department said that it was still under investigation and fortunately there were no casualties. Following break-out of the fire, the airport was closed down and arriving planes were asked to land in a nearby airport.

Both domestic and international flights have been resumed since this morning. There may be a slight change in the flight schedule of certain domestic flights because a number of planes which were to take off this morning were prevented from parking in Mehrabad last night to avoid any probable danger, he added.

When asked about degree of the damage caused, Nurian said that the offices of a number of airline companies were damaged but one of the terminals was not affected at all.

The minister of roads and transport, Mohammad Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan, visited Mehrabad Airport today and gave necessary instructions for the immediate repair of the damaged areas.

Group Claims Responsibility

GF211719 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Text] We start today's newscast with a report about a fire in Tehran's Mehrabad Airport. In a big fire, parts of Tehran's Mehrabad Airport facilities were burned. The armed Nehzat-e Pyrovan-e Shari'at has announced responsibility for the fire. The fire lasted for hours and burned many of the regime's documents, including some in terminal No 1. offices of some of the foreign airlines also were burned in the fire.

Nehzat-e Peyrovan Shari'at in a pamp let distributed in Tehran last night, while apologizing to some of the employees of Iran National Airlines and those of the civil aviation organization -- who can be considered among the regime's opposition -- announced that this act was committed as a warning to the regime. The armed organization also states that for the mullahs and their cronies to realize that the threat of the revolutionary executions of the candidates for the Council of Experts is serious, they will cause a series of fires and explosions. The organization stressed that it opposes any bombing that endangers the lives of innocent people.

The organization again has asked all compatriots not to participate in the contrived elections for the Council of Experts.

KORDESTAN 'CLEANSED' OF 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES'

GF210856 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Text] According to the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters, the center of the combined operations of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces and the Islamic revolution guards, the victorious defenders of the Islamic revolution purged the (Banadireh) heights 36 km from Sar Dasht and six surrounding villages in a series of successful operations. This was a befitting sequel to the pride-inspiring victories of the courageous combatants of Islam in Kordestan and a continuation of the complete purging of the Mahabad-Sar Dasht axis of the counterrevolutionaries' filth affiliated with the East and West.

The Islamic combatants succeeded in arresting a number of counterrevolutionaries linked to the world oppressors during this campaign.

MAJLIS SESSION DISCUSSES DOMESTIC ISSUES

GF210854 [Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 0440 GMT on 21 November carries the proceedings of the open Majlis session.

The (Bamian) deputy speaks first and launches into a tirade against the United States, saying that "the shah with all his wealth and support from the United States could not save himself from his fate." The abortive coup in Tabas shows that the revolution will continue despite the conspiracies of the superpowers, he says, adding that the aggressor Saddam will meet the same fate.

The Babol deputy next takes the rostrum and after copious recitation of verses from the Koran, says that no one can harm the Iranian nation with its dauntless courage and thirst for martyrdom. Regarding the election of the Council of Experts, he says people should carefully choose candidates as it will have repercussions on the future of Iran. He then elaborates on the problems in his constituencies where roads are closed during winter due to heavy snowfall and avalanches. He also asks for fixing of meat prices because of a "shortage of consumer goods in such inclement weather aggravates the problems of the people."

The Tabriz deputy appeals to all Afghans to unite under a common banner to fight the usurpers. He says the revolution in Iran was not only on the political but also on the cultural and religious fronts. He asks all deputies to maintain closer rapport with the people so that they may be aware of their problems and should try to eliminate them. He advocates an increase in the enrollment of students at religious seminaries.

An unidentified deputy declares that "as a member of Iran's minority group he condemns the attack on Palestinians by an Armenian."

Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani then reads the agenda and the names of the deputies who will discuss the conditions of roads, the water supply, housing and educational problems, discrepancies in health and postal department facilities, repair of mosques and more telephone exchanges in districts. He announces that a letter has been received from the Bakhtaran deputy thanking Imam Khomeyni for the appointment of a Friday imam in Bakhtaran.

The Majlis then begins a debate on domestic issues which continues until 0706 GMT when the Majlis adjourns for an hour's tea break. The session is resumed at 0810 GMT and continues until 0832 GMT when the speaker announces that the next session will be held on Monday at 0800.

TEHRAN ARABIC ANALYZES POST-BREZHNEV ERA

GF211853 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1245 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Text] It is premature to predict what the post-Brezhnev era in the Soviet Union will be like and what developments Soviet policy will undergo after Yuriy Andropov's election as CPSU general secretary. However, the election of Andropov, the man who headed the Soviet intelligence service known as the KGB, and the statements he made to members of the CPSU Central Committee immediately after his election, are worthy of study.

In truth, there are many theories about the post-Brezhnev era in the Soviet Union. One of them predicts the escalation of rivalry between the two superpowers due to the new policy the Soviet Union will adopt after Andropov's assumption of power and the role the Soviet Government will play in the international political theater, which certainly will require more moves by the Soviets.

We have here to recall that late President Leonid Brezhnev adopted, during his tenure of 17 years, the principle of coexistence; he used to affirm that he would not budge an inch his [word indistinct] foreign peace policy. However, the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and the Soviet intervention in Poland proved these claims of the late President Brezhnev to be false. On the other hand, Soviet foreign policy sprang from emotional stands due to the expansion of U.S. military policy, particularly after the Republicans came to power in the United States. These emotional Soviet stands were evident during the events in the Middle East and Latin America.

However, the Soviet leadership was aware of the weaknesses in these stands and thus elected Andropov as CPSU general secretary, despite the fact that there are eminent leading figures close to late President Brezhnev, including Constantine Chernenko. Andropov was elected instead of Chernenko to put an end to the emotional policy Brezhnev adopted on the foreign level and to charge the Soviet international policy with new military strength. The best example of this is the first statement Andropov made during the CPSU Central Committee meeting after his election as general secretary. He said: We know very well that we cannot beg peace from imperialism and that is why relying on the striking power of the Soviet Armed Forces is the only means to safeguard and maintain international peace. The new general secretary emphasized the determination of the new Soviet leadership to increase the Soviet defense capability to the greatest degree possible. However, we can say that Moscow will be forced to adopt a reasonable policy or claim to adopt the policy of late President Brezhnev, at least for a certain period of time.

Despite these speculations, we can say that Andropov's police past, the siege of Moscow by the Red Army and the Soviet police during Brezhnev's funeral and the election of the new party leadership show that the Soviet Union will adopt a more ambiguous and violent policy. Thus, we can expect more collision between the two superpowers following the recent changes in the Soviet leadership.

There is another theory regarding expected developments in the Soviet Union after the election of the new Soviet leadership. The theory sees that no basic changes will take place in Soviet policy after Andropov's election as CPSU general secretary and that Andropov's election came at the recommendation of Brezhnev himself shortly before his death, regardless of the fact that the conflict within the Soviet leadership has abated during recent years after the leadership adopted a specific and clear policy compared to that of previous leaderships. Therefore, changing one of the leaders in the Soviet Union will not greatly affect Soviet policy.

The same theory affirms that Andropov's views during his meeting with the Soviet leaders after his election as CPSU general secretary are only a continuation of the policy of late President Brezhnev and that what Andropov emphasized is no more than an information media game to affirm the striking power of the Soviet military machine. Besides, some political observers see a secret agreement between the two superpowers on Middle East and Near East issues. It is ruled out that new Soviet leader Andropov will abolish or reconsider this agreement, at least in the near future. Hence, we can say that this agreement is the basis of relations between East and West, which justifies the Soviet silence over the blatant U.S. intervention in the Middle East in general and in Lebanon in particular, and also justifies the indirect U.S. support to the Soviet efforts to achieve a solution to the Afghan issue in a way that might preserve the dignity of the Soviet Government. A good example of this is the bill the U.S. administration passed cancelling the U.S. economic blockade on the Soviet Union immediately after Andropov's election.